

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2617, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4373, FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2023; RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1082, SAM'S LAW; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 23, 2022*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Leader BRADY and Chairman NEAL for their yeoman-like work on SECURE 2.0. This has been a truly bipartisan and bicameral effort that will assist all Americans save more for their retirement for longer throughout their lives.

When SECURE 2.0 passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, it had multiple provisions I helped introduce, including an increase in RMD age, retirement matching for student loan repayment, and enhancing 403(b) plans.

As the House and Senate went through negotiations on this package, I was pleased to see that Unclaimed Savings Bonds was included, something that I have been working on since before I have been in Congress.

The U.S. Treasury is sitting on potentially billions of dollars in bonds which haven't been claimed—mostly because people don't know they or their parents or grandparents even own bonds. If given access to federal records and the dormant bonds, most states would be able to make it easy for people to look up if they own lost bonds and to reclaim ownership.

Approximately \$29.7 billion in savings bonds have reached final maturity and ceased to pay interest. While Treasury claims that only one percent of all matured savings bonds have not been redeemed, it's much more.

States already have programs in place to help their residents find lost or forgotten assets. It's a program that I'm passionate about, as I helped connect Kansans with their money and assets as Kansas State Treasurer for 6 years, fighting the U.S. Treasury tooth-and-nail the entire way.

While my standalone unclaimed savings bond bill required Treasury to provide states with the names, addresses, and serial numbers—the best way to make sure Americans are reconnected with their rightful property—the provision in this bill makes Treasury's providing of serial numbers optional.

I believe that this deliberate change is due to Treasury's failure to keep accurate records.

This crucial information is necessary, and Congress overwhelmingly intended for Treasury to provide it. I would like to make it clear that it is the intent of Congress that, where possible, states should be able to access the serial numbers of unclaimed savings bonds.

Inclusion of this provision is a positive step, but Americans won't see the full benefit until Treasury stops playing games with the savings bond program.

I would briefly like to touch on the underlying Omnibus bill. It is a shame that good legislation supported by Republicans and Democrats like SECURE 2.0 has been tucked into a 4,000-plus-page bill that nobody has read in total. It contains highly partisan and reckless spending throughout, which I fundamentally oppose.

I believe that last-minute legislation like this is a terrible way to run the greatest country in the world and I urge my colleagues to vote no.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
RICHARD MILLER FROM THE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND  
LABOR

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 27, 2022*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Richard Miller and honor his public service as the Director of Labor Policy for the Committee on Education and Labor.

When people describe Richard, the sentiments range from "true and tireless champion of working people", "an expert on any topic relating to workers", to "unparalleled knowledge of the issues impacting workers". Folks have called him charismatic, meticulous, dedicated, committed.

Prior to working for Congress, he helped workers organize for labor rights and battle union busting campaigns from coast to coast and from north to south. Through his work for the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers International Union, and its successor Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers Union, he led advocacy efforts to enact an occupational illness compensation program for defense nuclear workers (Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA)); protect union rights and pension security; fund hazardous waste worker training programs; enact a defense nuclear worker "conversion" and medical screening law; secure a moratorium on the sale of radioactively contaminated metals into unrestricted commerce; and authorize and secure funding for U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigations Board (CSB).

Since its enactment in 2000, EEOICPA has provided benefits to approximately 100,000 nuclear weapons complex workers (or their survivors) for diseases arising from exposure to radiation, beryllium and silica. As the Representative of the 3rd Congressional District of

Virginia, which is home to the Nation's largest private shipyard, the Committee pressed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to expand a proposed beryllium rule to include protections for shipyard workers—particularly those around abrasive blasting. Richard led the Committee's effort, in conjunction with the Steelworkers union, to ultimately secure enforceable protections for our nation's maritime workers from exposure to this ultra-toxic element.

Beginning in 2007, Richard joined on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, investigating regulatory gaps in energy futures and derivatives markets; the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to reprocess spent nuclear fuel; price manipulation schemes in propane markets; crude oil pipeline safety; and DOE's sole-source contracting and nuclear non-proliferation programs.

In 2009, Richard came to the Committee on Education and Labor under then Chairman George Miller (no relation) and worked under my leadership for nearly eight years. Richard conducted investigations on the Upper Big Branch coal mine disaster; the performance of the Chemical Safety Board's investigations; contested case backlogs before the Federal Mine Safety & Health Review Commission; mismanaged state OSHA programs; the Department of Labor's Whistleblower Protection Program and Black Lung Benefits program, and administration proposals to cut federal workers' compensation benefits.

Richard maintained a focus on international labor rights by supporting the Speaker's Congressional Monitoring Group on the U.S.-Colombia Labor Action Plan and the bi-cameral working group on safety and labor rights in Bangladesh. Following the repeated fires and industrial disasters killing workers in that country's garment industry, and a government largely unresponsive to labor rights violations, Richard led Committee efforts to enact funding for global labor rights programs and to elevate labor rights as a priority for U.S. diplomacy with Bangladesh, while assisting Bangladeshi labor rights advocates in communicating their concerns to Congress.

As part of his work for the Committee, he has drafted bills to strengthen the Occupational Safety & Health Act, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act, the Black Lung Benefits Act, the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA). As a corollary, he led efforts to beat back three-efforts over six years to cut FECA benefit levels. As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, Richard led Committee efforts to ensure front-line workers in VA hospitals, airports, post offices, law enforcement and meat plant inspectors were able to secure workers' compensation for COVID-19 without having to meet an insurmountable burden of proof.

He has worked to stabilize the black lung benefits program by extending the black lung excise tax, reducing backlogs in adjudicating claims, driving reforms in coal operator self-insurance, and rebuilding the black lung clinics program to ensure miners receive pulmonary

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.